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EXAMINER

LETT, THOMAS J

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2625

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

OfficeAction25944@oliff.com
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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/660,562

Applicant(s)

OZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

THOMAS J. LETT

Art Unit

2625

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 January 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6-8,10,12-16 and 19-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6-8,10,12-16 and 19-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 28 January 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants state that the system in Itaki only specifies attributes of printers (information about printers) and it does not describe any information regarding the display devices. As such, Itaki does not disclose the ability to acquire an individual instruction data from process information where one image processing apparatus performs one process to the document data and another image processing apparatus performs another process to the document data. By contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites an acquisition component "which acquires individual instruction data from process information, the process information representing a series of processes, the series of processes including a first process to be performed to document data by the image processing apparatus and a second process to be performed by another image service processing apparatus to the document data to which the first processes is performed." Itaki does not disclose or suggest this feature of claim 1, nor does it disclose the above-mentioned feature of claims 8, 10, 12, and 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 8, 10, 12, and 21, and claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 13-16, 19, and 20 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Examiner responds that the system of Itaki et al. acquires a display screen (user interface), for each process performed, as shown in figures 9-12, 16-20, 26-28 and 33 and operation screen display processing of para 0157+. To set up these interfaces,

settings must be acquired to arrange each user interface to reflect the settings as attributes displayed for each of printers 16, para. 0137. These are display settings that are unique for each device as each device has different attributes. For example, as in para. 0154, the display attributes for a color printer 16 would show color attribute settings while the display attributes for a monochromatic printer 16 would show black/white attribute settings. As in para. 0156, an initial screen is displayed that would reflect the settings for a scanner (i.e., a display screen with properties laid out for using a scanner set-up). Then as another process in a series, another screen, other than the initial screen, is displayed with its own settings (a copy/print service).

Claim Objections

Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "wherein the individual instruction data includes a location where the document data is stored further includes a location where the document data is stored" is repetitive and does not appear to be grammatically correct in order to understand. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 12-16 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Itaki et al. (US 20020030840 A1).

Regarding claim 1, Itaki et al disclose an image processing apparatus (scanner 12, para. 0135) comprising:

an acquisition component (controller 12C, para. 0139) which acquires individual instruction data from process information (information which describes the print operation screen, para. 0139), the process information representing a series of processes (processing routines and operation screen display processing, para. 0147), the series of processes including a first process to be performed to a document data by the image processing apparatus and a second process to be performed by another image service processing apparatus to the document data to which the first process is performed (an initial screen is displayed that would reflect the settings for a scanner (i.e., a display screen with properties laid out for using a scanner set-up). Then as another process in a series, another screen, other than the initial screen, is displayed with its own settings (a copy/print service), see para. 0156), and

setting information including at least a setting item and a setting value for setting execution contents of the processes (figure 33 shows a job having a series of settings, or setting changes, to be applied to a print job, para. 0132 and para. 0289);

an extraction component (user interface extracts the information necessary to display the print operation screen, para. 0139) which extracts from the individual instruction data the setting information to be displayed on a display component (display panel 12B, para. 0136);

a generation component (HTML generates screen information for display on display panel 12B, para. 0137) which generates screen information for displaying a screen on the display component on the basis of the setting information extracted by the extraction component, wherein the generation component generates the screen information by obtaining a screen structure on the basis of display specifications of the display component and by applying the setting information to the obtained screen structure (screen structure generated includes icons, buttons, frames, scroll bar, etc., para. 0137);

wherein the display component displays a screen on the basis of the screen information, the individual instruction data further includes storage location information representing a position of an external device in which the screen information is stored in advance (the user interface part is stored in the memory 12D of scanner 12 and attributes of printers 16 are stored in server 14, para. 0137. Attributes include network addresses, or locations, of printers 16D, paras. 0005 and 0017), and

the acquisition component further acquires the screen information based on the storage location information (a retrieved list of printers 16 includes the attributes of location information of printers 16D, para. 0253).

Regarding claim 3, Itaki et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the generation component includes an interpreting component which interprets a display item for defining the screen structure on the basis of the setting information extracted by the extraction component (screen structure generated includes icons, buttons, frames, scroll bar, etc., para. 0137 which are inherently interpreted by HTML).

Regarding claim 4, Itaki et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the acquisition component acquires the individual instruction data from an external device (information which describes the print operation screen is acquired from a server 14, para. 0139).

Regarding claim 6, Itaki et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 4, wherein the storage location information is address information representing the position of an external storage device (a retrieved list of printers 16 includes the attributes of location information of printers 16D, para. 0253), which is connected to a communication network (network 10, para. 0135).

Regarding claim 7, Itaki et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 4, wherein the acquisition component can be connected to a server in which the screen information is stored, and acquires the screen information from the server (information which describes the print operation screen is acquired from a server 14 by a controller 12C, para. 0139).

Regarding claim 8, Itaki et al disclose an image processing method which can acquire individual instruction data which describes process information, the process information representing a series of processes (controller 12C, para. 0139 acquires information which describes the print operation screen, para. 0139), the series of processes including a first process to be performed to a document data by the image processing apparatus and a second process to be performed by another image service processing apparatus to the document data to which the first process is performed (an initial screen is displayed that would reflect the settings for a scanner (i.e., a display

screen with properties laid out for using a scanner set-up). Then as another process in a series, another screen, other than the initial screen, is displayed with its own settings (a copy/print service), see para. 0156), and

setting information including at least a setting item and a setting value for setting execution contents of the processes (figure 33 shows a job having a series of settings, or setting changes, to be applied to a print job, para. 0132 and para. 0289), the image processing method comprising the steps of:

extracting from the individual instruction data the setting information to be displayed (user interface extracts the information necessary to display the print operation screen, para. 0139);

generating screen information for displaying a screen on the basis of the extracted setting information (HTML generates screen information for display on display panel 12B, para. 0137), wherein the screen information is generated by obtaining a screen structure on the basis of display specifications of a display component and by applying the setting information to the obtained screen structure (screen structure generated includes icons, buttons, frames, scroll bar, etc., para. 0137); and

displaying the screen on the display component on the basis of the generated screen information, wherein the individual instruction data includes a location where the document data is stored further includes a location where the document data is stored, the document data is obtained from the location, image processing is made to the obtained document data (the user interface part is stored in the memory 12D of scanner

12 and attributes of printers 16 are stored in server 14, para. 0137. Attributes include network addresses, or locations, of printers 16D, paras. 0005 and 0017), and

the above steps are performed by a processor (controller 12C).

Regarding claim 10, Itaki et al disclose an image processing apparatus (scanner 12, para. 0135) comprising:

an acquisition component (controller 12C, para. 0139) which acquires individual instruction data from process information (information which describes the print operation screen, para. 0139), the process information representing a series of processes (processing routines and operation screen display processing, para. 0147), the series of processes including a first process to be performed to a document data by the image processing apparatus and a second process to be performed by another image service processing apparatus to the document data to which the first process is performed (an initial screen is displayed that would reflect the settings for a scanner (i.e., a display screen with properties laid out for using a scanner set-up). Then as another process in a series, another screen, other than the initial screen, is displayed with its own settings (a copy/print service), see para. 0156), and setting information including at least a setting item and a setting value for setting execution contents of the processes, the setting item containing a certain process of the series of processes to be displayed, the setting value including a necessary value for the execution of the certain process of the series of processes (figure 33 shows a job having a series of settings, or setting changes, to be applied to a print job, para. 0132 and para. 0289);

an extraction component (user interface extracts the information necessary to display the print operation screen, para. 0139) which extracts from the instruction data the setting information to be displayed on a display component (display panel 12B, para. 0136);

a generation component (HTML generates screen information for display on display panel 12B, para. 0137) which generates screen information for displaying a screen on the display component on the basis of the setting information extracted by the extraction component, wherein the generation component generates the screen information by obtaining a screen structure on the basis of display specifications of the display component and by applying the setting information to the screen structure; wherein the display component which displays a screen on the basis of the screen information (screen structure generated includes icons, buttons, frames, scroll bar, etc., para. 0137), and

the setting information further includes location information for displaying the at least one setting item at a specified location on the screen structure (screen structure generated includes icons, buttons, frames, scroll bar, etc., para. 0137. The icons are positioned in figure 9.).

Regarding claim 12, Itaki et al disclose an image processing method which can acquire an instruction data which describes process information, the individual instruction data including:

(i) a series of processes of image processing made to document data (controller 12C, para. 0139 acquires information which describes the print operation screen, para.

0139; processing routines and operation screen display processing, para. 0147); and the series of processes including a first process to be performed to a document data by the image processing apparatus and a second process to be performed by another image service processing apparatus to the document data to which the first process is performed (an initial screen is displayed that would reflect the settings for a scanner (i.e., a display screen with properties laid out for using a scanner set-up). Then as another process in a series, another screen, other than the initial screen, is displayed with its own settings (a copy/print service), see para. 0156); and

(ii) setting information for setting the processing contents of the image processing, when the individual instruction data is acquired, the setting information is extracted from the individual instruction data, the extracted setting information being displayed on a screen that receives an operation input from a user, and the image processing being carried out by setting information selected by a user (screen structure generated includes icons, buttons, frames, scroll bar, etc., para. 0137. The icons for image processing are positioned in figure 9.),

wherein the above steps are performed by a processor (controller 12C).

Regarding claim 13, Itaki et al disclose an image processing method of claim 12, wherein:

(i) the individual instruction data further includes a location where the document data is stored (the user interface part is stored in the memory 12D of scanner 12 and attributes of printers 16 are stored in server 14, para. 0137. Attributes include network addresses, or locations, of printers 16D, paras. 0005 and 0017);

(ii) the document data is obtained from the location (display panel 12B can access the image data from memory location 12D, para. 0136); and

(iii) image processing is made to the obtained document data (screen structure generated includes icons, buttons, frames, scroll bar, etc., para. 0137).

Regarding claim 14, Itaki et al disclose an image processing method of claim 12, wherein:

(i) the individual instruction data further includes contents of a screen structure for displaying (see at least figs. 11, 16, 17, 18A);

(ii) the screen structure is generated in accordance with the contents (see at least figs. 11, 16, 17, 18A); and

(iii) the setting information is reflected in a generated screen structure (screen structure generated includes icons, buttons, frames, scroll bar, etc., para. 0137).

Regarding claim 15, Itaki et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

(i) the individual instruction data further includes a location where the document data is stored (the user interface part is stored in the memory 12D of scanner 12 and attributes of printers 16 are stored in server 14, para. 0137. Attributes include network addresses, or locations, of printers 16D, paras. 0005 and 0017);

(ii) the document data is obtained from the location (display panel 12B can access the image data from memory location 12D, para. 0136); and

(iii) image processing is made to the obtained document data (using processing routines stored in memory 12D, para. 0138).

Regarding claim 16, Itaki et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

(i) the individual instruction data further includes contents of a screen structure for displaying (see at least figs. 11, 16, 17, 18A);

(ii) the screen structure is generated in accordance with the contents (see at least figs. 11, 16, 17, 18A); and

(iii) the setting information is reflected in a generated screen structure (screen structure generated includes icons, buttons, frames, scroll bar, etc., para. 0137).

Regarding claim 19, Itaki et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 10, wherein:

(i) the instruction data further includes a location where the document data is stored (the user interface part is stored in the memory 12D of scanner 12 and attributes of printers 16 are stored in server 14, para. 0137. Attributes include network addresses, or locations, of printers 16D, paras. 0005 and 0017);

(ii) the document data is obtained from the location (display panel 12B can access the image data from memory location 12D, para. 0136); and

(iii) image processing is made to the obtained document data (using processing routines stored in memory 12D, para. 0138).

Regarding claim 20, Itaki et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 10, wherein:

(i) the individual instruction data further includes contents of a screen structure for displaying (see at least figs. 11, 16, 17, 18A);

(ii) the screen structure is generated in accordance with the contents (see at least figs. 11, 16, 17, 18A); and

(iii) the setting information is reflected in a generated screen structure (screen structure generated includes icons, buttons, frames, scroll bar, etc., para. 0137).

Regarding claim 21, Itaki et al disclose an image processing method which can acquire individual instruction data which describes process information (controller 12C, para. 0139 acquires information which describes the print operation screen, para. 0139), the process information representing a series of processes (processing routines and operation screen display processing, para. 0147), at least one of the processes to be performed to document data, and setting information including at least a setting item and a setting value for setting execution contents of the processes (figure 33 shows a job having a series of settings, or setting changes, to be applied to a print job, para. 0132 and para. 0289), the image processing method comprising the steps of:

extracting from the individual instruction data the setting information to be displayed (user interface extracts the information necessary to display the print operation screen, para. 0139);

generating screen information for displaying a screen on the basis of the extracted setting information (HTML generates screen information for display on display panel 12B, para. 0137), wherein the screen information is generated by obtaining a screen structure on the basis of display specifications of a display component and by applying the setting information to the obtained screen structure (screen structure generated includes icons, buttons, frames, scroll bar, etc., para. 0137); and

displaying the screen on the display component on the basis of the generated screen information, wherein the individual instruction data further includes contents of a screen structure for displaying, the screen structure is generated in accordance with the contents, the setting information is reflected in a generated screen structure (screen structure generated includes icons, buttons, frames, scroll bar, etc., para. 0137. The icons are positioned in figure 9.), and

the above steps are performed by a processor (controller 12C).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Itaki et al. (US 20020030840 A1) in view of Iwata et al. (US 20010004256 A1).

Regarding claim 22, Itaki et al. does not expressly disclose the image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the display specifications of the display component include at least a screen size of the display component.

Iwata et al. teach of display specification data including a display screen size and resolution, para. 0038.

Itaki et al. in view of Iwata et al. are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of image processing. At the time of the invention, it would

have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the display specification data of Iwata et al. to the printing apparatus of Itaki et al. in order to obtain apparatus properties that include the specifications of a display component. The motivation for doing so would be to configure a display for a user when processing a document.

Regarding claim 23, Itaki et al. does not expressly disclose the image processing method of claim 8, wherein the display specifications of the display component include at least a screen size of the display component.

Iwata et al. teach of display specification data including a display screen size and resolution, para. 0038.

Itaki et al. in view of Iwata et al. are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of image processing. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the display specification data of Iwata et al. to the printing method of Itaki et al. in order to obtain apparatus properties that include the specifications of a display component. The motivation for doing so would be to configure a display for a user when processing a document.

Regarding claim 24, Itaki et al. does not expressly disclose the image processing apparatus of claim 10, wherein the display specifications of the display component include at least a screen size of the display component.

Iwata et al. teach of display specification data including a display screen size and resolution, para. 0038.

Itaki et al. in view of Iwata et al. are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of image processing. At the time of the invention, it would

have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the display specification data of Iwata et al. to the printing apparatus of Itaki et al. in order to obtain apparatus properties that include the specifications of a display component. The motivation for doing so would be to configure a display for a user when processing a document.

Regarding claim 25, Itaki et al. does not expressly disclose the image processing method of claim 21, wherein the display specifications of the display component include at least a screen size of the display component.

Iwata et al. teach of display specification data including a display screen size and resolution, para. 0038.

Itaki et al. in view of Iwata et al. are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of image processing. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the display specification data of Iwata et al. to the printing method of Itaki et al. in order to obtain apparatus properties that include the specifications of a display component. The motivation for doing so would be to configure a display for a user when processing a document.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS J. LETT whose telephone number is (571) 272-7464. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/THOMAS J LETT/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Dov Popovici/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625